

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0550
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR PDEV EG IS US
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO ISRAELI ANSWERS

REF: CAIRO 15300

SUMMARY: PRESS HIGHLIGHTS FONMIN KAMEL'S EXPRESSION OF
"REGRET" TO AMBASSADOR THAT ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE" AND
NON-RESPONSE TO PEACE INITIATIVE CONTINUES. HE AFFIRMS
EGYPT'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE PEACE EFFORTS. PRESS
ACCOUNT OF KAMEL MEETING CLAIMS AMBASSADOR DID NOT CARRY
WITH HIM OFFICIAL ISRAELI REPLY PENDING CONSULTATIONS
USG HOLDING WITH ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. COMMENTARIES ALSO
NOTE ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, THE AMBIGUITY OF THE ANSWERS,
AND EGYPT'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO PEACE EFFORTS.
RESTRAINED PRESS REACTION MIRRORS RESTRAINED REACTIONS
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WE HEARING PRIVATELY FROM EGYPTIANS. END SUMMARY.

1. ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. PRESS JUNE 20 HIGHLIGHTS
EXPRESSION OF "DEEP REGRET" FROM FONMIN KAMEL TO
AMBASSADOR OVER ANSWERS WHICH REFLECT CONTINUED ISRAELI.
INTRANSIGENCE AND NON-RESPONSE TO "THE SINCERE EFFORTS"
EGYPT HAS EXERTED, AND THE U.S. HAS SUPPORTED, SINCE

SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE. KAMEL'S REMARKS WERE REPORTED IN CONTEXT OF HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR. STORY SAYS AMBASSADOR "DID NOT CARRY WITH HIM AN OFFICIAL ISRAELI REPLY PENDING THE CONSULTATIONS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY HOLDING WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT." AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY ASKED FOR MEETING WITH KAMEL TO CONSULT WITH HIM ABOUT "COMING STEPS."

2. "RESPONSIBLE SOURCES" AT THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AFFIRMED THAT "THE ISRAELI REPLY DOES NOT ENCOURAGE THE RESUMPTION OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL." AHRAM DIPLOMATIC EDITOR "LEARNED" THAT EGYPT SEES ISRAELI ANSWERS AS NOT DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS PROPOSED IN ISMAILIA AND THERE NO NEW ISRAELI IDEAS. AKHBAR EDITORIAL SAYS "ISRAELI STATEMENT IN KEEPING WITH BEGIN'S LOGIC" AND THAT ISRAEL UNABLE TO RESPOND TO PEACE INITIATIVE. COMMENTS BY FORMER PRESIDENT OF PRESS SYNDICATE KAMEL ZUHARI INDICATE ISRAELI ANSWERS REFLECT "SAME OLD BEGIN" WHOSE VIEWS STEM FROM GENUINE CONVICTION OF MIND AND HEART THAT ISRAEL MUST RETAIN PALESTINE. BEGIN HAS SUCCESSFULLY "IMPOSED HIS IDEOLOGY", REFLECTED IN RESULTS OF ISRAELI CABINET MEETING. BEGIN, IN ZUHARI'S VIEW, IS "INSOLUABLE OBSTRUCTION" ON THE ROAD TO PEACE.

3. EGYPT CONTINUES PEACE EFFORTS. FONMIN KAMEL AFFIRMED THAT EGYPT WISHES TO MAINTAIN "CONTINUED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULTATION AND CONTACT" WITH THE USG AND PRESIDENT CARTER TO CONSIDER "HOW TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES BEGIN HAS PUT ON THE ROAD TO PEACE." AKHBAR EDITORIAL ECHOES SAME THEME THAT EGYPT WILL CONTINUE PEACE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT "LIBERATION OF LAND AND JUSTICE."

4. VAGUENESS. AKHBAR EDITORIAL SAYS ISRAELI ANSWERS CLEARLY UNDERLINE ISRAELI PROCRASTINATION; ANSWERS ARE "AMBIGUOUS" AND FALL SHORT OF "CLEAR-CUT STAND" FOR WHICH AMERICAN QUESTIONS ASKED. AHRAM DIPLOMATIC EDITOR NOTES THAT ISRAELI ANSWER HAS COMPLETELY IGNORED THE PRINCIPLE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND HOW THE PALESTINIANS WILL PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE. AKHBAR EDITORIAL SAYS ANSWER PUT FORTH NO CONCEPTIONS OF FUTURE OF WEST BANK AND GAZA AND IGNORED PALESTINIAN CAUSE, THE CRUX OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. EILTS

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